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Political postcard draws opposition ire

ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

A NDP postcard that is being sent to the people of Queens County is accusing the opposition parties of "opposing the deal to save 2,000 jobs."

This, despite a unanimous vote on Thursday to approve legislation that will enshrine a \$50-million bailout for the Bowater Mersey mill in

Liverpool.

The postcard, which is being mailed out to residents on Friday, highlights the details of the deal, which was struck this month.

It also accuses the Liberals and Tories of playing "old-style politics" by opposing the deal.

While both parties raised concerns about aspects of the agreement, not a single MLA in the

52-seat legislature voted against the bill on Thursday.

Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie accused Premier Darrell Dexter of lying to the people of Queens County.

"I believe it's insulting to the intelligence of the people of Queens County," Baillie said.

"It's a lie, as everyone here knows, and as I believe the people of

Queens County know."

Dexter said the opposition members are talking out of both sides of their mouth, criticizing the deal while saying they want to save Bowater.

Asked whether budgetary and policy scrutiny was still a responsibility of the legislature, Dexter said "absolutely."

"If they want to oppose it, oppose it. Just be upfront about it," he said.



► Jamie Baillie

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE

Deficit forecast up from September

► But the books will still get balanced in two years, Graham Steele says ► Revenues have dropped, but departmental spending is under control: NDP

ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

The province is still on track to balance the books in 2013, despite projecting a \$365.2-million deficit on this year's books, Finance Minister Graham Steele says.

That's \$45.8 million more than the finance department predicted in September, but \$24.3 million less than predicted in the spring budget.

"Despite some new initiatives, such as the Bowater plan, and despite continuing uncertainty in the national and international economies, we are where we expected to be," Steele told reporters on Thursday.

On the revenue side, corporate income tax, HST, tobacco tax and motive fuel taxes are all down, as are federal

1.4
The finance department expects real GDP to grow by 1.4 per cent through this year, and 1.7 per cent in 2012. That's down from the 1.9 per cent predicted in the budget.

source revenues — resulting in an \$80.1-million drop in revenue. Total expenses are now forecast at \$9.2 billion, down \$104.4 million from the budget.

Steele praised the NDP's efforts to tighten departmental spending. Department expenses were down by \$42 million, with 11 departments under budget and seven over budget. A large part of that \$42 million, however, is the result of a \$33.9-million prepayment to

NSCAD and Acadia University that appears on last year's books.

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil said the government needs to focus more on the environment that produced those numbers.

"We've said all along that the fundamentals that were causing the challenges for job creation in this province have not changed under this government," McNeil said.

"You see lower HST being collected because people are spending less, consuming less. You see more people on income assistance.... It's quite unfortunate as we look to the future."

Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie said the "real story" of the budget is that Nova Scotia's economic growth continues to lag behind that of the rest of the country.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE

► Finance Minister Graham Steele is optimistic that a larger-than-expected deficit will not derail plans to balance the budget in 2013.

Attempted-murder suspect apprehended by RCMP

A man wanted on a charge of attempted murder has been arrested, RCMP report.

Andrew Stephen Robinson, 30, of Indian Brook was arrested on Wednesday at about 10 p.m. in Bible Hill. He also faces an

aggravated assault charge.

Police issued an arrest warrant for Robinson after a 32-year-old man from Shubenacadie was found unconscious Friday at a residence in nearby Stewiacke.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Robinson

CONTRIBUTED

News in brief

Oval opens next Friday

RINK RAVE. Be sure to sharpen your skates before Dec. 23.

The Emera Oval on the Halifax Common will have its official opening on the eve of Christmas Eve. The public is invited

to a ribbon-cutting ceremony at noon on Dec. 23 with Mayor Peter Kelly, followed by a skate — weather-permitting — around the oval.

A CSA-approved "multi-impact" helmet is required for children 12 and under. Free helmets and skates are available to be lent on site, an HRM release said.

The oval is the largest artificial ice surface east of Quebec. ● METRO

1
news



Facebook's much-hyped Timeline feature, which promises to turn profiles into scrapbooks, has gone live. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

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Private daycare funding threatened

► Every million spent on child care increases federal and provincial revenues by \$860,000: Report



JENNIFER
TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

CUPE asked the province Thursday to phase out funding of for-profit daycare and brought along a report to back it up.

An impact analysis on child care in the province, prepared for CUPE, shows every million spent in child care provides about 47 jobs and allows 17 parents to find full-time work.

"CUPE is calling for the Nova Scotia government to announce its intention to begin the process of transforming early childhood care in Nova Scotia," said Mike McNeil, vice president of CUPE Nova Scotia, at a press conference at Province House.

CUPE wants child care funding directed to lowering parents' fees and increasing the wages and benefits of early childhood educators. The average wage of an ECE, based on 2009 numbers, is \$22,000.

Community Services Minister Denise Peterson-Rafuse said the province spends about \$50 million a year on child care and is starting consultations to



► Denise Peterson-Rafuse at her office in May.

"I find it very worrisome that the NDP and CUPE have appeared to have turned their sights towards gutting (private daycare providers) and are putting ideology ahead of families."

TORY MLA CHRIS D'ENTREMONT
IN A STATEMENT.

reevaluate child care in Nova Scotia. She said phasing out funding for private daycare will be on the table.

"I don't have a yes or no today, but it will be part of

the consultation process," she said, adding they're currently "laying the framework" for discussions to add as many voices as they can. "When you're making any changes there's often controversy, many opinions, so we want to make sure the foundation we build is very solid."

Since the province is facing a growing deficit, Peterson-Rafuse was asked by reporters if she can honestly commit to spending more money on child care.

"That's why you have to be very strategic," she said. "But to turn a blind eye because of the fear of finances means we won't get anywhere."



Trial by judge and jury for sexual assault case

A Halifax lawyer chose trial by judge and jury Thursday on a sexual assault charge.

Lyle Howe, 27, is one of two people charged with sexual assault and administering a noxious substance to a woman eight months ago.

Jeffrey Kendall Brown, 28, faces the same charges, and both men are scheduled to appear on Jan. 6 in provincial court to set a date for a preliminary in-

quiry.

Brown also faces a charge of theft under \$5,000.

A 20-year-old woman alleged she was assaulted on March 21.

Howe also faces a charge of uttering threats after an alleged incident in a courthouse holding cell.

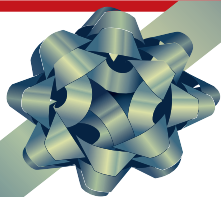
His lawyer, Shawna Hoyte, said in court that Howe is pleading not guilty to that charge, which is scheduled to go to

trial on March 16.

Outside court, Crown attorney Andre Arseneau of Sydney said he is overseeing the case to avoid a perception of bias.

"To ensure fairness of a trial for every accused, we make sure that there's no perception of unfairness and in these circumstances it's appropriate to have a Crown attorney from outside the region prosecute the matters," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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► NSCAD grad Scott Saunders installs mannequins for an art project at the proposed convention centre site on Argyle Street on Thursday.

Art project helps to fill gaping city hole

► Artist returning Sunday to install more mannequins, designed to withstand weather and possible vandalism



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONews.CA

It's still a vacant lot in the downtown core, but 100 mannequins dressed in business attire will surely leave more of an impression on passersby than crumbling stone and empty beer cans.

On Thursday, local artist Scott Saunders was busy filling the site of the proposed downtown Halifax convention centre on Argyle Street with human-shaped figures as part of a temporary art project.

Saunders, a NSCAD graduate from 2008, said it's a "context-driven project."

"It's recognizing how polarizing this site has been, and controversial as it exists right now, and

"It does have that kind of spectacle quality about it, something wondrous."

ARTIST SCOTT SAUNDERS SAID OF HIS ART PROJECT ON ARGYLE STREET

how it will continue to exist like this for months until the World Trade Centre really starts its buildup," he said.

The mannequins are collapsed on the ground with their arms and legs in various positions.

"As you move around the lot, what becomes interesting is that, regardless of where you're at, you'll see something new in the way it's positioned."

He said he saw a few wide eyes and raised eyebrows as he was setting up Thursday afternoon.

Downtown Halifax Coun. Dawn Sloane said the project, which has been months in the making, adds "vibrancy" to an otherwise homely abandoned space.

"It's certainly a spontaneous way to deal with an empty lot," said Sloane. "Maybe we can have spontaneous art all over the city."

About 40 mannequins are currently at the site, with another 60 or so to be installed by the end of January, said Saunders.

Saunders partnered with the Downtown Halifax Business Commission, HRM and Rank Inc. for the project, and received \$5,000 through the municipality's Open Projects program to carry out the project. **WITH FILES FROM**

JENNIFER TAPLIN

A WINNING DESSERT

Recipe nets woman \$250K

Glo McNeill's recipe for her Luscious Lemon Pudding has made her \$250,000 richer.

The 82-year-old woman from Lunenburg got the

most online votes over a three-day period last week to win the grand prize on the Food Network's Recipe to Riches show.

McNeill took the title of Canada's best home chef when the program's finale was broadcast Wednesday night.

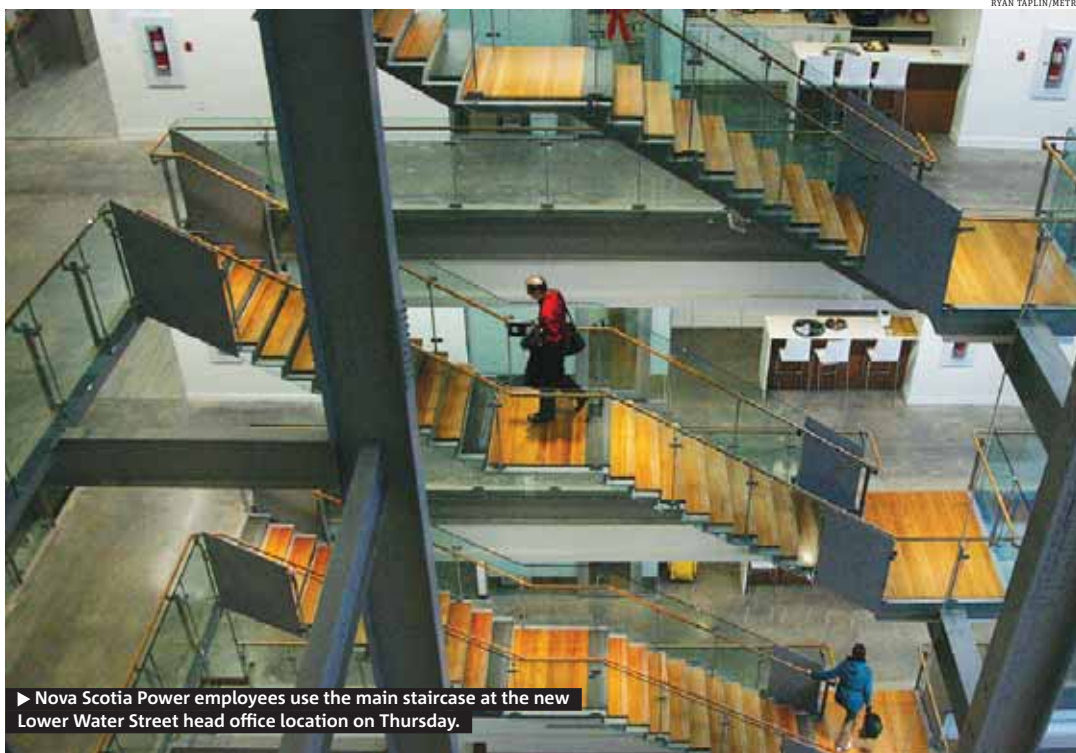
She says she plans to use the money to fix up her house and maybe take a vacation.

McNeill beat six other

contestants in the program, which pitted home cooks across the country against each other, to take the top prize.

McNeill says her youngest daughter told her that if she visualized the victory, it would happen.

"And I visualized exactly that: Money showering down on me, and at the end all of these little gold flakes fell down," she said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



► Nova Scotia Power employees use the main staircase at the new Lower Water Street head office location on Thursday.

Nova Scotia Power's digs brightened up

► First LEED-certified platinum building east of Montreal ► Public access on first floor from Lower Water Street to boardwalk ► Head office still called 1H



JENNIFER
TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Glass, sleek lines and natural light are a far cry from a square block of dirty concrete that used to sit on the Halifax waterfront for over 100 years.

Paul Currie, project manager, led media on a tour of the Nova Scotia Power building on the waterfront Thursday. It's a \$53.4-million renovation project, three years in the making. It may seem unfair when power rates are continually on the rise, but Currie explained the renovations were actually the cheaper option.

"We determined it's less expensive than the other alternative for occupancy space, than the rent we were paying at Scotia Square," he said.

NSP rented space at Barrington Tower for 40 years while the old power



"It still has a lot of the old memories of the old power plant."

PAUL CURRIE, PROJECT MANAGER.

plant sat mostly vacant. But it came to a point where the utility wanted to own a space instead of renewing a lease, and this building was in such a state of repair that NSP would have had to do something soon — either tear it down or build it up.

Currie said they could-

Plant history

A brief timeline:

- **1841:** Halifax Gas, Light, and Water Co. bought the land for 1,400 pounds sterling.
- **1902:** First generating plant built.
- **1917:** Nine employees killed during Halifax explosion.
- **1980s:** Plant decommissioned.

Details:

- About 600 Emera and Nova Scotia Power employees started moving in last summer.
- Discovery Centre will lease space in the building for 25 years for \$1. They will move in 2013.
- 3.5 million pounds of steel was taken off the site and recycled.
- 4.5 million pounds of concrete was taken out, some of which was used as fill for lot across the street.

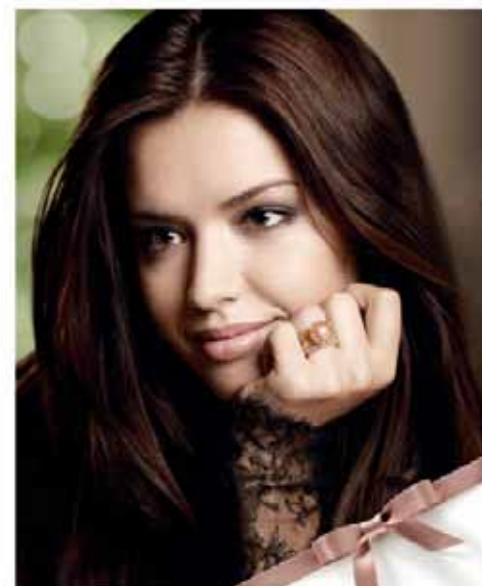
n't sell the property because the power lines on the site feed all of downtown.

"That led us to 'Hey, we've got the building, why not see what we can do to renovate it to make it our own for our head office?'" he said.

Plus the location allowed NSP to use harbour water for heating and cooling, he added.

The building is called 1H — the original name (1 for the first substation, and H for Halifax). But the name isn't the only reminder of what was: there's an external concrete wall remaining as well as the roof line and many of the original steel beams.

And where the smoke stacks used to poke out are now skylights.



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Martin to show off her moves

Comedian Andrea Martin will be bringing her larger-than-life attitude onto a Halifax stage next year at the Bust a Move fitness event.

The award-winning Broadway actress will be a special guest at the third annual Bust a Move For Breast Health event,

which is slated for March 24, 2012, at the Canada Games Centre.

Martin may be best known for her role on the Canadian comedy television series SCTV, portraying leopard-print-wearing station manager Edith Prickley.

She's had roles in nu-

merous theatre productions and appeared on the big screen in My Big Fat Greek Wedding.

Since the event was launched, nearly \$2 million has been raised for breast health and the creation of a breast health centre in Halifax.

● METRO



► Andrea Martin

Will that be pine or plastic?

► When it comes to holidays, some traditions remain, others going away

BY THE NUMBERS

RICK EMBERLEY
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA



It's that wonderful time of the year again.

Most of us still cling to the tradi-

tions of Christmas in HRM, but there is change afoot.

According to a recent survey, 77 per cent of HRM residents plan to have a traditional turkey dinner on Dec. 25.

But maybe our traditions have more to do with the giving and receiving of gifts, because only 48 per cent plan to attend church during the Christmas season. Of those under 35, that number drops to 39 per cent.

What other traditions do we cling to?

Well, surprisingly, 79 per cent are still into sending cards to friends and family the old-fashioned way — by mail — and 73 per cent will spend Dec. 25 at home or with relatives, simply relaxing and soaking up the spirit of the season.

So what's changing in how we are celebrating?

For starters, only 39 per

True believers

► Of those 402 people in HRM surveyed, 82 per cent say they still believe in Santa Claus.

cent of us are putting up a "real" Christmas tree. So instead of wandering into a tree lot, we are wandering into our favourite retailer. Amongst our younger respondents (aged 18 to 35), only 31 per cent plan to rely on nature to dress up the living room.

Our gift-giving patterns and behaviours are also changing, it seems.

On average, we plan to spend about 10 per cent less this year. But the panic may set in and change that: only 44 per cent have our shopping done.

When we get into the malls in the closing hours before Christmas, will we stick to our planned budgets? Probably not.

But the season still tends to revolve around friends and family. Just over 80 per cent say they enjoy the family time and the spirit of the season.

Rick Emberley is senior counsel with the polling firm MQO Research. He has conducted public-opinion research in the region for over 25 years.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Research shows most still cling to the traditions of Christmas.

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Sobeys buys 250 gas stations

► Grocery-store chain's parent company says deal will give company strong presence in Quebec

The Sobeys grocery-store chain is expanding its gasoline-retailing business with the purchase of 250 gas stations in Atlantic Canada and Quebec from Shell

Canada.

Canada's second-biggest grocery chain already has gas bars at some of its Atlantic stores. However, this deal will give the company

a strong presence in the Quebec market as well, Sobeys' parent company and Stellarton-based Empire Company Ltd. said Thursday.

"This is an exciting opportunity for us to grow our existing retail gas operations while leveraging our significant wholesale and convenience business to

better serve our customers and support our affiliates and dealer operations," Sobeys president and chief executive Bill McEwan said. Financial terms of the

Sobeys deal were not immediately available, but the company said that it expects to use its existing cash to finance the purchase. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



► Sobeys has purchased 250 gas stations from Shell Canada.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Man facing charges after knife attack

A 21-year-old Halifax area man is facing charges after police say someone broke into a home and attacked someone while wielding a knife.

At 6:40 p.m. on Wednesday, police were called to the 2300 block of Agricola Street after a 25-year-old man was attacked inside his home.

Police say the victim knew his attacker but was able to defend himself and escape injury.

The 21-year-old was later arrested and is now facing charges of aggravated assault, assault with a weapon, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and break and enter. **● METRO**

News in brief

Three charged with thefts

PORT HAWKESBURY, N.S. RCMP have laid 40 charges against three men accused of a string of thefts in Cape Breton and eastern Nova Scotia. Investigators say the thefts from businesses in Inverness, Richmond and Antigonish counties started in February 2006.

The charges include break-and-enter, theft over \$5,000, theft under \$5,000, theft of vehicles, attempted theft and possession of stolen property.

Two of the accused, Thomas Edward Sparkes and Gary Michael

Sparkes, are from Port Hawkesbury.

The third, David John Campbell, is from Barrie, Ont. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

No bail for accused lurer

BRIDGEWATER, N.S.

A 30-year-old Nova Scotia man accused of trying to lure teen girls for sex has been denied bail. Bradley Ronald Whynot of Lower Northfield will remain in custody pending the outcome of his trial.

He faces three counts each of luring a child, invitation to sexual touching and sexual interference. Whynot is also facing various drug-related charges and one count of possessing a prohibited weapon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Homecoming. Joy

► The sign says it all: Capt. Steph Barteaux is hugged by her dad Bruce and mom Bonnie after arriving in Ottawa on Thursday. She was among the last Canadian soldiers to leave Kandahar.



SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Back in her family's loving arms

P.E.I. men shot in Alberta riddle

- Police call it murder-suicide, but why did it happen?
- Injured woman said to be from Charlottetown

Two young men from Prince Edward Island were shot early Thursday in what the RCMP are calling a murder-suicide.

Four people were killed in the southern Alberta drama and a fifth person was in hospital clinging to life.

Police haven't released identities but media reports cited friends and associates saying the P.E.I. men were Mitch MacLean, 20, of Cornwall, and Tanner Craswell, 21, of Charlottetown.

The Charlottetown

"Our investigators ... are trying to make heads or tails out of not only what is there, but also why this came about"

RCMP SGT. PATRICK WEBB

Guardian identified the person in hospital as Shayna Conway of Charlottetown.

Mounties were called out around 3:30 a.m. after residents of Claresholm, south of Calgary, reported

hearing gunshots.

Officers found a car and an SUV on the side of Highway 2 and five people, all in their early 20s, suffering from gunshot wounds.

"It was pretty horrific," said RCMP Sgt. Patrick Webb.

"We now have a total of four deceased from that incident and one female, who is in hospital, injured, but expected to recover."

Webb said the shooter gunned down his victims before turning the gun on himself.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nannies get a break

Ottawa is making it easier for foreign nannies to get open work permits.

People can now hire live-in caregivers when there are no Canadians available for the jobs.

They have to work for two years and then they can apply for permanent-resident status. The change gives open work permits

when they complete the two years.

"Too many live-in caregivers have completed their work obligations but must continue living in the home of their employer, waiting for their application ... to be reviewed," Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The doctor is in ... a big crowd

The number of practising doctors in Canada is at an all-time high.

Nearly 70,000 active physicians were working in the country last year, a new report shows.

The report was released by the Canadian Institute for Health Information

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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UNITED NATIONS

UN official promotes gay rights

The UN's top human rights official urged countries Thursday to abolish legal discrimination against gays, days after the U.S. government said it would use foreign aid and diplomacy to promote gay equal rights.

The UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, said governments should also outlaw all forms of abuse based on sexual orientation.

Pillay's appeal came in a report released Thursday to the 47-nation UN Human Rights Council, which in June passed the global body's first resolution condemning anti-gay discrimination. That vote was hailed by the U.S. but decried by some Muslim nations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia scrambles to save whales

Russian agencies are trying to save some 100 beluga whales — an endangered species — that are trapped among large

chunks of polar ice floating in the frigid Bering Sea.

Russia's nature protection watchdog says there is a chance that the whales might perish. Authorities say the ice is 10-15 centimetres thick and is preventing the whales from reaching the open sea where they can swim freely.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taking to the television

ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin listens to a question during a national call-in TV show in Moscow on Thursday.

► Putin, opposition give no ground amid unprecedented wave of discontent over recent Russian vote

Sharp-tongued and defiant, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin denounced those protesting vote fraud as stooges of the West and insisted that Russia's national election was valid. His opponents were under-terred.

In a four-and-a-half-hour marathon call-in show on national TV, Putin aimed to erect a bulwark against a rising wave of discontent. But his disdainful tone appeared likely to only fuel more protests, after a fraud-tainted parliamentary vote Dec. 4 sparked the largest public anger Russia has seen in a generation.

He dismissed opposition claims that vote fraud had given Putin's United Russia party a majority of the

3,500
In a telling display of anger, the number of people who signed up on Facebook to go to the Dec. 24 rally increased from 18,000 to 21,500 just in the hours Putin was speaking.

seats in parliament.

The opposition was not mollified.

"The boorish, disdainful attitude toward the people that Putin demonstrated in today's television show was obvious," said Boris Nemtsov, a prominent opposition leader, in a blog post after the show.

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► A relative of a toxic-liquor victim cries at a hospital near Kolkata on Thursday.

Wails of grief over liquor toll

▶ Lethal tide of bootleg booze claims 143 victims

As relatives wailed in grief, the death toll from bootleg liquor containing toxic methanol climbed to 143 people, officials in eastern India said Thursday.

Dozens more were sickened after drinking the cheap, illicit and toxic brew.

Police arrested 10
suspected bootleggers.

Emergency medical teams rushed to a village outside Kolkata, and thousands of grieving relatives gathered outside a packed hospital.

Inside, bodies lay on the

“Why don’t the police stop this? I cannot understand.”

**ANWAR HASSAN MULLAH,
WHO BROUGHT SIX PEOPLE
TO HOSPITAL. THEY ALL DIED.**

floor covered in quilts, while the sick waited on crowded staircases to be treated.

Groups of men sat in the halls with saline drips running into their arms.

Abdul Gayen cried
inconsolably for his son,
Safiulla, a labourer who
drank some of the liquor

and then complained of
lightheadedness.

When Safiulla woke the next morning, he fell and began frothing at the mouth, Gaven said.

He died before his family could get him to the hospital. "Safiulla was the lone bread earner in our family. I don't know what will happen to us now," he said.

Illegal liquor operations flourish in the slums of urban India and among the rural poor who cannot afford the alcohol at state-sanctioned shops.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

wearing veils, traditional Arab dress or growing long beards.

A notice from the Dunmaili district of Yining said the campaign's objective was "to completely get rid of the abnormal phenomenon in the entire community of minority ethnic women and youth wearing Arabian dress, growing beards and covering their faces in veils."

Yining is in Xinjiang, a region home to the traditionally Muslim Uighur ethnic group. Many Uighurs resent Chinese rule and controls on their religion and culture.

Xinjiang regional spokesperson Hou Hanmin said she was unaware of the campaign. She said people in Xinjiang are free to wear what they like.

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Reasons for Knox verdict revealed

► Italian court of appeals cited evidence that didn't hold up as reason the American was cleared of murder

The Italian appeals court that cleared Amanda Knox in the slaying of her British roommate gave the reasons for its ruling on Thursday: the evidence that had been used by a lower court to convict the American and her Italian boyfriend of murder just didn't hold up.

Those shortcomings included no murder weapon, faulty DNA, an inaccurate time for the killing, and insufficient proof that Knox and Raffaele Sollecito were even at the location where the crime occurred. So said the Perugia appellate court in its long-awaited reasoning behind its October ruling that reversed the lower court's convictions.



► Amanda Knox.

Meredith Kercher was found slain in her bedroom floor in Perugia, Italy, on Nov. 2, 2007.

Knox and Sollecito, who had begun dating at the time of the murder, were arrested several days later,

then convicted in what prosecutors portrayed as a drug-fuelled sexual assault. They were sentenced to 26 and 25 years, respectively.

On Thursday, the appellate cited among the other failed elements of the prosecutors' case DNA evidence, which was undermined during a re-examination in the appeals trial, and the failure to conclusively identify the murder weapon. The appellate court contradicted the lower court's time of death, saying it happened at around 10:15 p.m., not after 11 p.m. The court said the "building blocks" used to construct the case failed or were missing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tower. Skate



► Ice skaters slide on the rink set 57 metres above the ground on the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

FRANCOIS MORI / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris puts tourists on ice

Lodged between two of the Eiffel Tower's immense latticed steel legs, Paris's new ice rink is not big at 200 square metres, but adds a new dimension to the views from Paris' best-known landmark. It will remain open until Jan. 31, 2012.



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Canada's odd online searches

► Google releases list of search engine's bizarre, most popular queries from across the country

Canadians may be among the most digitally savvy in the world but perhaps a lesson in using Google is in order.

The search giant released its annual lists of the most popular searches on Thursday and the biggest query of the year was www.census2011.gc.ca.

Even Google is at a loss to explain why so many Canadians typed the URL for the Canadian census site into the search engine, rather than just accessing the address directly.

"It's peculiar," said Google Canada spokesman Aaron Brindle.

"Typing in 'census' would've made more sense

to me as well but I guess there were millions and millions of Canadians that must've put in the URL."

But perhaps the top search shouldn't be a surprise, considering how users typically use the search engine.

The search for www.census2011.gc.ca was actually the "fastest-rising" query of the year, while the absolute most common search was "Facebook."

In its annual lists, Google strips out the most common searches that are perennially on top and instead highlights the year's new search terms that grew in popularity the most. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Popular searches

► For several years, Facebook has been the top search of the year on Google — even though it would take just a few extra taps to enter the .com and go directly to the site.

► Other top searches in Canada this year include YouTube, Toronto, you, Hotmail, Kijiji, weather, game and Yahoo, showing that users often use a Google search as a way to click onto their favourite sites.

► Bizarrely, "google" is consistently one of the year's top searches on Google.

Christmas. Ad



► A pedestrian passes a poster unveiled as part of a church advertising campaign outside St. Anne's Church in Manchester City Centre, Manchester, England, on Thursday.

JON SUPER/JON SUPER

Nativity scene with style

With only days to go until Christmas, the church group unveiled a poster Thursday to remind people of the religious aspect of the holiday. A beautifully groomed Mary, fashionably dressed Joseph gaze at a baby's crib while wise men carry a Faberge egg, a crystal bottle of perfume and a decorated skull.

2011's word of the year is ...

When the time came for Merriam-Webster to pick its top word of 2011, its editors decided they needed to be pragmatic. So they chose ... pragmatic.

The word, an adjective that means practical and logical, was looked up so often on Merriam-Webster's online dictionary that the publisher says "pragmatic" was the pragmatic choice for 2011. "Pragmatic" may have sparked users' interest because they'd heard it in conversations, and because it captures the current American mood of encouraging practicality over frivolity. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Top words

► Merriam-Webster has been picking its top choice since 2003. Past winners include: austerity (2010), admonish (2009) and bailout (2008).

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Defectors kill 27 soldiers as Syria violence increases

▶ Attacks could lead to new cycle of escalation, expert says ▶ Damascus' former envoy to Sweden flees to Turkey to join opposition, authorities accuse him of profiteering, fraud

Army defectors killed 27 government forces on Thursday in apparently co-ordinated attacks that were among the deadliest by rebel troops since the uprising began nine months ago.

The fighting began around daybreak in the southern province of Daraa, where the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad's authoritarian regime began in March.

Syria has seen a sharp escalation in armed clashes recently, raising concerns the country of 22 million is headed toward civil war.

Sanctions by Western powers, Turkey and the Arab League have added to the growing pressure on al-Assad from within Syria.

U.S. State Department official Frederic Hof told Congress on Wednesday that al-Assad's repression may allow him to hang on to power, but only for a short time.

Still, the regime could exploit the escalation of armed attacks by military defectors to escalate the

crackdown with full force on pockets of defectors concentrated in Daraa and the northwestern province of Idlib that borders Turkey.

Defectors from the Free Syrian Army, whose leaders are based in exile in neighbouring Turkey, fired a rocket-propelled

grenade at a bus carrying policemen into the town of Busra al-Harir on Thursday, killing 12 officers, an activist based nearby said.

That set off clashes with an accompanying force of soldiers. The defectors killed 13 of them, said the activist.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ This amateur footage from TV made available by a group called Ugarit News on Thursday shows what appears to be a Syrian tank on fire, in Homs, Syria, as gunfire rings out. The tank then apparently exploded. According to information released with this video, members of the al-Faruq brigade blew up the tank. The brigade is part of the Free Syrian Army and reportedly made up of Syrian army defectors.

Orders to kill

- ▶ **New York-based** Human Rights Watch said Thursday that dozens of military commanders and officials authorized or gave direct orders for widespread killings and torture.
- ▶ **The 88-page report** by the group is based on more than 60 interviews with defectors from the Syrian military and intelligence agencies. It identifies 74 commanders and officials behind the alleged abuse.

Canadians urged to get out of Syria

The federal government is again urging Canadians to get out of Syria while they still can.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says it is becoming increasingly difficult for Canadian diplomats and consular officials to do their jobs under restrictions imposed by President Bashar al-Assad.

"We are declaring a voluntary evacuation of all Canadians in Syria," Baird said. "We will provide specialized consular services to those who wish to leave. "Our embassy in Damas-



"The time to leave Syria is now."

JOHN BAIRD,
FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER

cus is also available to assist Canadians in Syria, as well as their spouses and their dependent children."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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France's Jacques Chirac found guilty

► Judge finds former president guilty of corruption, misuse of public funds during days as mayor of Paris ► Avoids serving any jail time

As French president, Jacques Chirac was called all sorts of names, not the least for his vociferous opposition to the U.S.-led war in Iraq. Now, he has a moniker that will stick: Convicted criminal.

The avuncular 79-year-old on Thursday became France's first former leader to be convicted since Marshal Philippe Petain, who headed the Nazi collaborationist regime during World War II, in 1945. Chirac will not go to prison, but received a two-year suspended sentence for corruption linked to his 18-year term as the mayor of Paris.

In a statement hours af-

ter the decision, Chirac said though he "categorically contest(ed)" the verdict, he would not appeal.

Despite the "pain and the profound sadness this verdict has inflicted," the statement said, "I sadly no longer have the necessary strength to lead before new judges the combat for the truth."

He said that as mayor, "it is up to me and me alone to take responsibility," but stressed that "above all, I affirm with honour: I cannot be blamed for anything."

"I leave (judgment) to my compatriots, who know who I am: an honest man who never had



► This Feb. 24, 2007, file photo shows ex-president Jacques Chirac at the Elysee Palace.

any other desire or motivation than the unity of

the French people, the greatness of France, and action in favour of peace."

The verdict was an uncomfortable coda to Chirac's four-decade career as a fixture of French politics, and could aid efforts by critics to rid the political system of its cushy cronyism.

Chirac was found guilty in two related cases involving 19 totally or partially fake jobs created for his benefit at the RPR party, which he led as Paris mayor from 1977 to 1995. He was convicted of embezzling public funds, abuse of trust and illegal conflict of interest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. marks end of mission in Iraq

► Troops end presence with small service ► Iraqis' future uncertain

There was no Mission Accomplished banner. No victory parade down the centre of this capital scarred and rearranged by nearly nine years of war. No crowds of cheering Iraqis grateful for liberation from Saddam Hussein.

Instead, the U.S. military officially declared an end to its mission in Iraq on Thursday with a businesslike closing ceremony behind blast walls in a fortified compound at Baghdad airport. The flag used by U.S. forces in Iraq was lowered and boxed up in a 45-minute ceremony. No senior Iraqi political figures attended.

With that, and brief words from top U.S. officials who flew in under tight security still necessary because of the ongoing vio-

lence, the U.S. drew the curtain on a war that left 4,500 Americans and more than 100,000 Iraqis dead.

The conflict also left another 32,000 Americans and far more Iraqis wounded, drained more than \$800 billion from America's treasury and soured a majority of Americans on a war many initially supported as a just extension of the fight against terrorism after the 9-11 attacks.

As the last troops withdraw from Iraq, they leave behind a nation free of Saddam's tyranny but fractured by violence and fearful of the future. Bombings and gun battles are still common. And experts are worried about the Iraqi forces' ability to defend the nation against foreign threats. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



► U.S. Command Sgt. Major Joseph R. Allen, left, and U.S. army Gen. Lloyd Austin, commander of U.S. Forces Iraq, wrap up a flag used by the U.S. forces in Iraq during a ceremony in Baghdad on Thursday.

Reaction

- **Some Iraqis celebrated** the exit of what they called American occupiers and others said that while grateful for U.S. help ousting Saddam, the war went on too long. A majority of Americans would agree, according to opinion polls.
- **"With this withdrawal,** the Americans are leaving behind a destroyed country," said Mariam Khazim, a Shiite whose father was killed by a mortar shell.
- **"The Americans did not** leave modern schools or big factories behind them. Instead, they left thousands of widows and orphans. The Americans did not leave a free people and country behind them; in fact, they left a ruined country and a divided nation."



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Weather could make enemies of polar bears

They're etched onto our coins, are part of our national identity and lure tourists to the Arctic every year, but the majestic Canadian polar bear could pose a significant risk to northern communities if climate change continues to wreak havoc on its natural habitat.

"It's potentially quite serious in terms of human-bear interactions," says Ian Stirling, an Edmonton-based scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service who has studied polar bears for 41 years.

"It's a big problem in northern communities, it already is. They're killing 30, 40, 50 problem bears a year in the Canadian Arctic because they're threatening human life or property."

The adjunct professor at the University of Alberta wants to drive home the point that action is needed to combat the climate change, which has the potential to turn the typically mild-mannered mammals into a risk.

► A polar bear mother and her two cubs walk along the shore of Hudson Bay near Churchill, Man., in this Nov. 7, 2007, photo.



In his new book, *Polar Bears: The Natural History of a Threatened Species*, Stirling says the biggest threat to the bears is an increasingly warming climate, which is causing earlier and more widespread melting of northern sea ice.

The ice is crucial to the bears because it serves as a hunting platform to access their primary food sources — particularly ringed seal pups.

"If they can't eat, they're not going to survive," says Stirling.

In startling new research, scientists are now also suggesting bears are turning on their own young in some cases to satiate their hunger as climate change hampers their feeding patterns.

"We are seeing a great deal more cannibalism and infanticide in the last 10 years more than we've seen in the last 25 or 30 all put together," says Stirling, who recently co-authored a paper documenting the issue in four cases.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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DETAILS IN SHOWROOM

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WEEKEND, DECEMBER 16-18, 2011

19

More than money at stake in developing Arctic: Report

► Melting of permafrost due to climate change affecting infrastructure

Governments and businesses are being advised they must look beyond immediate economic benefits when it comes to paying for roads, ports and rail lines in the Arctic.

The Conference Board of Canada said in a report released Thursday that even though such projects are more expensive to build and maintain than they would be in the south, they're still worth it.

"If you've got an all-weather road into a community, it's a lot easier and cheaper to get goods and people into and out of those communities than if you're dependent on a winter road that's only open for an increasingly short number of weeks," said David Stewart-Patterson, the think-tank's vice-president.

"But it's not just about



► A speed-limit sign along the road near the Meadowbank gold mine in Nunavut.

access to economic opportunities. It's access to essential public services."

Canada's North is poorly served by transportation infrastructure. Aside from private roads built for specific resource projects, Nunavut has only 21 kilo-

metres of all-weather road in the entire territory. It has only one harbour, despite the fact almost all its communities are along shorelines.

The northern reaches of the provinces face similar limitations. The report says

25,000 people in northern Manitoba depend entirely on winter roads, the season for which is shrinking yearly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

TSX



- 38.63
(11,504.42)

Dollar



+ \$0.36¢
(96.55¢ US)

Oil



- \$1.08 US
(\$93.87 US)

Natural gas

\$3.127 US
(- 0.9¢ US)

Gold

\$1,577.20 US
(- 9.70 US)

China. Choco-chic



► A model shows off clothing partially made of chocolate during a chocolate fashion show in Shanghai on Thursday.

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada Post No. 8 in G20

British firm Oxford Strategic Consulting says Canada Post takes the No. 8 spot in its ranking of postal services in the G20 countries.

The ranking is based on postal service providers' performance over the three years from 2008-10 looking at access to services, efficiency and performance.

The U.S. Postal Service took the No. 1 spot, followed by Japan Post, Australia Post and Korea Post.

Oxford says the USPS topped the ranking due to its high operating efficiency over the three years — delivering eight times more



GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

letters per full-time delivery employee than Canada Post.

The report says the expansion of e-commerce means there is an even greater need for postal services to be fast, efficient and reliable — especially during the busy holiday season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A PIECE OF (EXPLETIVE) IN THEIR STOCKING

THE METRO LIST

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO



We're makin' a list, checkin' it twice. So you're gonna find out who's naughty and nice ... which is especially important this time of year.

1 Justin Trudeau has been very naughty. The son of former Prime Potty Mouth Pierre Trudeau (remember "fuddle duddle"?), demonstrates that the rotten apple doesn't fall very far from the tree as he loses it in question period and refers to Environment Minister Peter Kent as the four-letter version of a piece of excrement. At least he's efficient.

2 Canadians confirm they are the world's most boring people by making the census and Canada Post their two fastest-rising Google searches. While the rest of the world made 14-year-old pop curiosity Rebecca Black their fastest-rising search for Friday, dubbed by critics as "the worst song ever," we're looking into overnight delivery and number of adults per household. We're soooo nice. Sigh.

3 The Protester is Time Magazine's Person of the Year. OK, you've occupied our media and our minds for the requisite 15 minutes. Time to lay down your pitchforks and your torches and go back to your farms and families. You've been naughty for a noble cause.

4 Albert Pujols has agreed to play baseball for the Los Angeles Angels for the next 10 years. In return the team has agreed to pay him \$50,000 every time he steps up to the plate, even though his batting average has lost more than 50 points since the 2008 season. Nice! Albert Pujols is definitely a member of the one per cent. How come nobody tries to Occupy the Dugout?

5 The Artist, the silent movie, leads the Golden Globe nominations with six. Silence is, er, golden. Meanwhile, last weekend was the worst in modern box-office history. Is there a pattern here? Fortunately the notoriously naughty Robert Downey Jr. opens this week as Sherlock Holmes in A Game of Shadows. As the main competition is Alvin and the Chipmunks, Sherlock's duel with Professor Moriarty, the Nabob of Naughty, expects to gross more than \$50 million.

6 The Higgs boson has made it a pretty nice week for science nerds as the VBEM (Very Big Expensive Machine) at CERN in Switzerland has identified tantalizing hints that the Holy Grail of physics, a.k.a. the God particle, the elemental building block of Everything, exists. They seek it here; they seek it there; that damned elusive particle. Stay tuned for the exciting conclusion early in 2012.

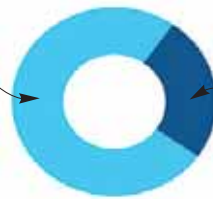
7 Justin Bieber is the most searched image on Google in 2011. Overexposed. And not in a nice way.



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and take the quick poll

Bodog has set the over-under for games played by Sidney Crosby at 38.5. What would you take?

75%
THE UNDER
FOR SURE.
THAT'S EASY
MONEY



25%
I'LL TAKE THE
OVER. HE'S
JUST BEING
CAREFUL NOW

Local tweets



► **@Kelly Barnes4:** Santa is playing sexy sax christmas music on spring garden! #halifax

► **@DaveBoyce:** Exciting couple of projects in the works...this time next year, everyone in #hfx will know my name.

► **@DiamondsWithaZ:** Ever want to hit someone with your car? Drive down Spring Garden Rd. #Halifax

► **@blackbriaer:** Where's the logic of Metro Transit not following their schedules and having THREE Bayers Lake buses show up all at

once? Annoyed as hell!! #hfx

► **@NatalieErb:** Would it really be that difficult to give us some snow?! #Halifax

► **@JordanryanSmith:** nothing like starting the day off by paying your parking tickets #Halifax

► **@HalleyPal:** Look around you... all you see is idiots... see the one with the lobster hat? that's me! good afternoon, #halifax

► **@kim_purcell:** 36 days until the @lights concert in #halifax! soo excited!! the count down is on!

► **@bachflower:** Wow, bus driver took the corner like he's driving a race car..weeeee #Halifax fun

Daily Zoom

Tiny baby beats enormous odds



Second-smallest baby in the U.S.

Melinda Guido is pictured shortly after her birth in late August with the hand of Dr. Rangasamy Ramanathan as a comparison. Melinda was born at 24 weeks weighing 9.5 ounces.

She's believed to be the second smallest baby to survive in the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girl power

► Most tiny babies who survive tend to be female because female fetuses mature faster than males.

► The smallest surviving baby, born weighing 9.2 ounces, is now a healthy seven-year-old. Another who weighed 9.9 ounces at birth is an honours college student.

"The first few weeks, it was touch and go. None of us thought the baby was going to make it."

DR. RANGASAMY RAMANATHAN

Two more weeks

Dr. Rangasamy Ramanathan predicted at least another two-week stay at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center for the premature baby, dashing her parents' hopes of taking her home by Christmas. Melinda can breathe by herself, but still uses an oxygen tube as a precaution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Synopsis

The puzzle at the heart of Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows begins with the death of the Crown Prince of Austria. Written off as a suicide, Holmes (Robert Downey Jr) deduces there is more to the story. Enter Watson (Jude Law), who should be on his honeymoon, a beautiful fortune-teller (Noomi Rapace, the original girl with the dragon tattoo), the evil Moriarty and more intrigue than you can shake a deer-stalker hat at. This week the game's afoot with Reel Guy Ned Ehrbar!

Ratings:
Richard: 3/4
Ned: 3/4

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN

SCENE@METRONWS.CA



► Game of Shadows is more a vehicle for Robert Downey Jr.'s witty banter and Guy Ritchie's love for action sequences than it is a great mystery.

Elementary plot

► Game of Shadows is light on the storyline, but heavy on action and witty banter

Richard: Ned, there is no question that RDJ and Law bring a certain joie de vivre to the usually staid portrayal of the great detective and his loyal sidekick. They look like they're having a ball, probably more fun than the audience, in fact. As enjoyable as it is to watch these two riff off one another it soon becomes clear the whole movie is nothing more than a vehicle for their banter.

Ned: The banter is delightful, there's no denying that. But when they're not sniping at each other, you start to notice the plot doesn't really measure up to a detective of Holmes' stature

— or offer any original ideas. Basically, if you don't want the movie spoiled for you, wipe the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen from your memory, as Moriarty's scheme is exactly the same in both movies. I'm assuming the filmmakers are banking on no one remembering that movie, though — which is a safe bet — but still.

RC: Agreed, if you can figure out the story. Confused and confusing, the plot zips along at such a rapid pace you'll barely know it doesn't make much sense because director Guy Ritchie fills the screen with wildly edited scenes anchored by

Downey's flamboyant performance. It looks cool and will make you laugh occasionally, but the quips and extravagantly edited sequences are only fun in the moment. They don't add up to much of a movie.

NE: Some of those cool-looking scenes can grate, as well. A little bit of the Sherlock slow-mo fight analysis goes a long way, but since it got such a good reaction in the first film, Ritchie lays on the bullet time a little thick here. One element that did work for me though was Jared Harris' Moriarty, a dangerously brilliant villain with a plausible cover story as a mild-

mannered professor. It's a shame he's not in the movie more, though.

RC: Harris has one seminal psycho moment — is there anything crazier than belting out an aria while torturing your nemesis? — but I didn't think Noomi Rapace, while eye catching as Sim, was given enough to do to be truly memorable.

NE: True, she doesn't get much to do besides react to the dynamic duo's chicanery and drop helpful reminders about the plot. And the less said about RJD on a pony, the better. Still, audiences could do a lot worse.

Scene in brief



Howard Stern will be joining the judges' panel on America's Got Talent, and the NBC summer talent show will uproot itself from Los Angeles to accommodate the New York-based shock jock, the network said Thursday. NBC confirmed weeks-old rumours of Stern's selection to join fellow Talent judges Howie Mandel and Sharon Osbourne.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Candy Spelling packs up, leaves Spelling Manor — the house that TV built — in HGTV special

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PG VIOLENCE

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Rape. Murder. Freezing cold weather. Happy holidays from the team behind *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, the latest adaptation of Stieg Larsson's international bestseller.

The book — about a journalist (Daniel Craig) who investigates a dysfunctional family's murder mystery, with help from anti-social hacker Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara) — has already spawned a successful Swedish film trilogy. The set was lighthearted, though. As were the two actors at our chat....

DANIEL CRAIG

The opening credits made me think what a David Fincher Bond film might look like.

I could see him applying it to anything, really. I'd love to work with him again, and I'd do anything for him.

There was some financial trouble with the Bond franchise over the last couple of years, but that made it possible for you to do this film.

That's true, it did, yes. I always knew it was going to work itself out. But I'd also kind of said to myself, if it doesn't work out somebody else is going to do it.

Tattoo has Oscar buzz, but do you worry that the roughness might scare off some voters?

Oh look, I can't think about all that. It's such a crazy period. If it offends a few people, good. I hope it does.

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO Q+A

▶ In exclusive one-on-ones, Metro interviewed the stars of this season's most anticipated film, asking what they think of one another, the book's dark tone and Bond, James Bond.



▶ Rooney Mara and Daniel Craig

ROONEY MARA

Lisbeth is an iconic character, with piercings and a punk look. How collaborative was David Fincher with you regarding the look?

There were a lot of discussions about the character — about the way she looks, about the way she walks, about the way she talks, about her eye contact, about her mannerisms. But at the end of the day, you know, obviously I'm the person playing the character so he did give me a lot of freedom in that. There was always a lot of talking and a lot of collaboration.

Why do you think it is that when a female character is

presented as strong and is in any way sexualized, some people dismiss it as exploitative or misogynistic?

I don't know, because people are stupid? (laughs) I don't know, that's true. I don't know why.

Because I think it scares people.

Things that people aren't used to seeing or experiencing scares them.

The thing that's so interesting about this character is that she has these two different sides. She's perfectly capable of taking care of herself, but at the same time she's vulnerable and put in these horrible positions.

She's wise beyond her years and incredibly bright, but at the same time she's emotionally stunted at 12 years old and is naïve and doesn't have a lot of experience with other people. So I think that's what makes her so interesting, that she has these opposing sides. She's been sexually abused, but at the same time she's very sexual, and I think that also probably scares some.

JOHN PINETTE

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Young Adult

Genre: Comedy

Director: Jason Reitman

Stars: Charlize Theron, Patton Oswalt, Patrick Wilson

🌐🌐 Oscar-winner Charlize Theron takes the cartoon route in this downbeat story of an alcoholic author who proves you can't go home again. Especially when you're an emotional wreck intent on stealing your high school sweetheart from his wife and

newborn. Diablo Cody's premise is interesting, but the filmmakers aim low. The film lacks subtlety and glorifies the bratty inner child, when the grown-up in question should be trying desperately to locate her inner adult. The humour is mild, juvenile and low-brow and veers into verboten territory as regional, sexist and somewhat homophobic.

● ANNE BRODIE



Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-Wrecked

Genre: Animation

Director: Mike Mitchell

Stars: Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney

🌐🌐

Maybe the first sign of getting old is no longer finding the voices of Alvin and his chipmunk brethren entertaining or even intelligible. The plot for their third theatrical outing gets underway after the recalcitrant rodents get separated from the Carnival cruise ship

(ingenious product placement, that) and end up on that evergreen cartoon trope, the deserted island where zany adventures are had and lessons are learned. Kids movies generally succeed by having something in them for the dragged-along parents as well, but the only jokes to sail over kids' heads in Chip-Wrecked seem to make reference to Internet memes and popular YouTube videos, which just seems lazy more than anything.

● NED EHRBAR



Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol

Genre: Action

Director: Brad Bird

Stars: Tom Cruise, Simon Pegg

🌐🌐🌐🌐

In the fourth Mission Impossible thriller, Tom Cruise and his rogue team of spies must clear their name after it's framed for a terrorist plot against the Kremlin. It's a simple, un-

derplayed plotline but an impressive vehicle for huge action sequences that include Cruise hanging off the Burj Khalifa in Dubai — even more stunning in IMAX. While the villain is bland and the supporting characters a bit thin, Ghost Protocol's intensity and pace returns Cruise to form as one of cinema's more thrilling spies. ● STEVE GOW

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The Adventures of Tintin (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:40
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:30-7:10-10:05
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-12:45-2:40-3:05-5:20-7:45-9:40-10:05
Arthur Christmas (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:55
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:55-6:35-9:25
The Descendants (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:25-10:10

um Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:25-10:10
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 8:00-10:25
Happy Feet Two (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:45-2:45-6:15-9:15
Hugo 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:47-40-10:30
Immortals (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 6:45-9:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (STC) Dolby Stereo Tue 6:25-9:25 Dolby Stereo Wed-Thu 12:3:15-6:45-10
The Muppets (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-7:05-9:45
New Year's Eve (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:30-1:05-3:30-4:05-7:05-7:15-10:10-10:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 12:30-1:30-4:05-7:05-7:15-10:10

10:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon 12:30-1:05-3:30-4:05-7:05-7:15-7:30-10:10-10:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 12:30-1:05-3:30-4:05-7:15-10:10-10:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:10-25
Puss in Boots (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:12-40-3:10-3:40-6:45-7:35-9:50-10:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 12:12-40-3:10-3:40-6:50-7:35-9:50-10:25
The Sitter (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-8:15-10:25
Tower Heist (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:15-4:15-6:50-10:00 Dolby Stereo Seating Tue 1:15-4:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sun 11:50-2:50-

6:25-9:20 Dolby Stereo Mon 11:50-2:50-10:20 Dolby Stereo Tue 11:50-2:50 Dolby Stereo Wed 6:25-9:20 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 9:20
Young Adult (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:25-4:25-8:10-10:30

IMAX

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The Adventures of Tintin: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:2-15:4-30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:3-40-7:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:40

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The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 8:00-10:25 Dolby Stereo Wed-Thu 1:4-30-8
My Week With Marilyn (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:45-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 4:15-6:45-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 6:45-9:10
Puss in Boots (G) Mon-Tue 1:30-4

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The Adventures of Tintin 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:15-4:7-10-9:55
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:30-3:6-55-9:20 Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:3-15-7-9-15
Hugo 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:35-3:20-6:15-9 Stadium Seating Mon 12:35-3:20-6:15 Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 12:35-3:20-6:15-9
Margin Call (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:3-50-7:15-9:50 Stadium Seating Sun 7:15-9:50 Stadium Seating Mon 1:3-50-9:50 Stadium Seating Tue 1:3-50-7:15-9:50 Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:20-9:50
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Giovanni - Encore (STC) Stadium Seating Mon 6:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Tue 6:30-9:30 Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
The Muppets (G) Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:15-4:7-05-9:35 Stadium Seating Tue 1:15-4
New Year's Eve (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:50-3:30-6:25-9:10 Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:50-3:35-6:20-9:10
The Nutcracker - Bolshoi Ballet Live (STC) Stadium Seating Sun 2
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Mon 12:45-3:40-6:35-9:40 Stadium Seating, No Passes Tue-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45
The Sitter (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:30-4:15-7:30-10 Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:05-3:55-6:55-9:30 Stadium Seating Tue 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:35

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Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 11:45-1:20-2:05-4:43-5-7:45-9:20-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 11:45-2:05-4:43-5-7:45-9:20-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Tue 11:45-1:20-2:05-4:43-5-7:45-9:20-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 11:45-2:05-4:35-7:30-10:05
Arthur Christmas (G) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 3:30-7:55-10:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:50-7:55-10:25
The Descendants (14) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:50-3:50-7:10-9:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:35-3:20-7:10-9:55
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue 7:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 11:55-4-8
Happy Feet Two (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 11:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 11:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 11:55
Hugo 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:20-3:20-6:35-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 12:20-3:20

LOWER SACKVILLE

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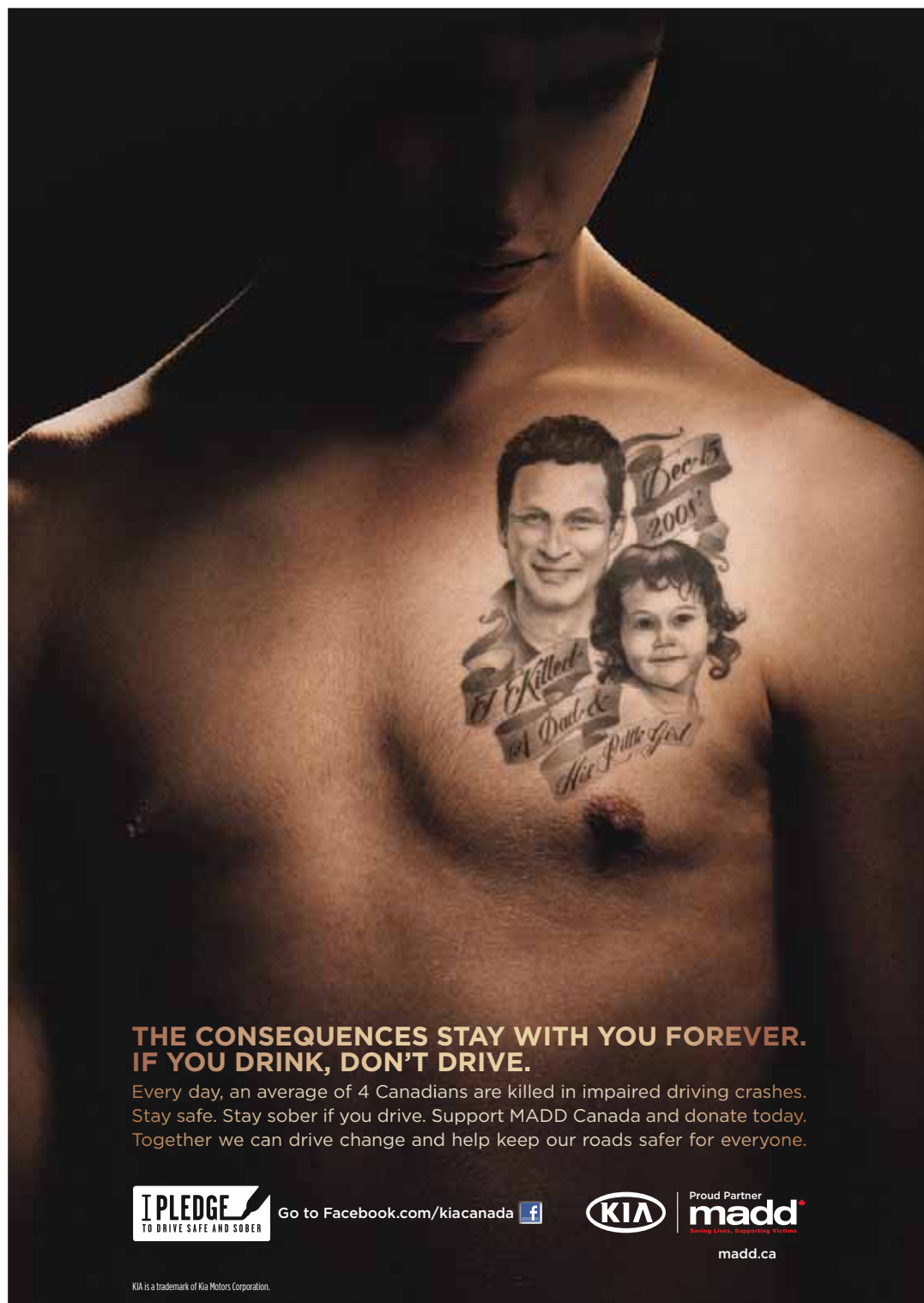
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 1:3-15-6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 1:3-15-6:40-9:15
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Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue 7:45 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:45
The Muppets (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 1:10-4-6:50-9:40
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The Sitter (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 7:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 1:20-4:20-7:15-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 1:20-4:20-7:30-9:50 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:25-4:20-7:30-9:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 6:35-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 12:40-3:40-6:35-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 12:40-3:40

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Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 11:45-1:20-2:05-4:43-5-7:45-9:20-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 11:45-2:05-4:43-5-7:45-9:20-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Tue 11:45-1:20-2:05-4:43-5-7:45-9:20-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 11:45-2:05-4:35-7:30-10:05
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Happy Feet Two (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 11:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 11:55 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 11:55
Hugo 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:20-3:20-6:35-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 12:20-3:20



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The Metropolitan Opera: Don Giovanni - Encore (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon 6:30

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:45-10

The Muppets (G) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4:15-7:30-10:10

New Year's Eve (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 1:05-4:20-7:20-10:20 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 1:05-4:20-7:25-10:20

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-3:10-6:25-9:40

The Sitter (14) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:30-4:40-8:15-10:35 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:30-4:40-8:15-10:40

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 2:55-6:15-9:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 2:55-9:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 2:55-6:15-9:15

Young Adult (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:25-4:25-8:05-10:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:25-4:25-8:10-10:35

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The Adventures of Tintin (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:30

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 7:30

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-

wrecked (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 3:6-45-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 3:7-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:6-40-9:10

Arthur Christmas (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 3:30

Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 6:35-9

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Tue 7:10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 3:05-6:30-9:50

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue 6:50-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:20-6:45-9:45

The Muppets (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 7:9-30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 3:05-7-9:30 Stadium Seating Tue 3:05

New Year's Eve (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 3:25-6:40-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:25-6:50-9:35

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 3:10-6:30-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue 3:10-6:45-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:10-6:55-9:40

The Sitter (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:55-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue

3:15-6:55-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:15-6:35-9

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 3:20-6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 3:20

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The Adventures of Tintin (STC) Wed-Thu 3:15-6:40-9:05

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (STC) Fri 7-9:10 Sat-Thu 3-7-9:10

Arthur Christmas (G) Sat-Tue 3:15

Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Tue

6:30-9

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (STC) No Passes Tue 7:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 2:30-7:30

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (STC) No Passes Tue 6:30-9:25 No Passes Wed-Thu 3:25-6:30-9:25

The Muppets (G) Fri 6:45-9:45 Sat-Mon 3:20-6:45-9:45 Tue 3:20

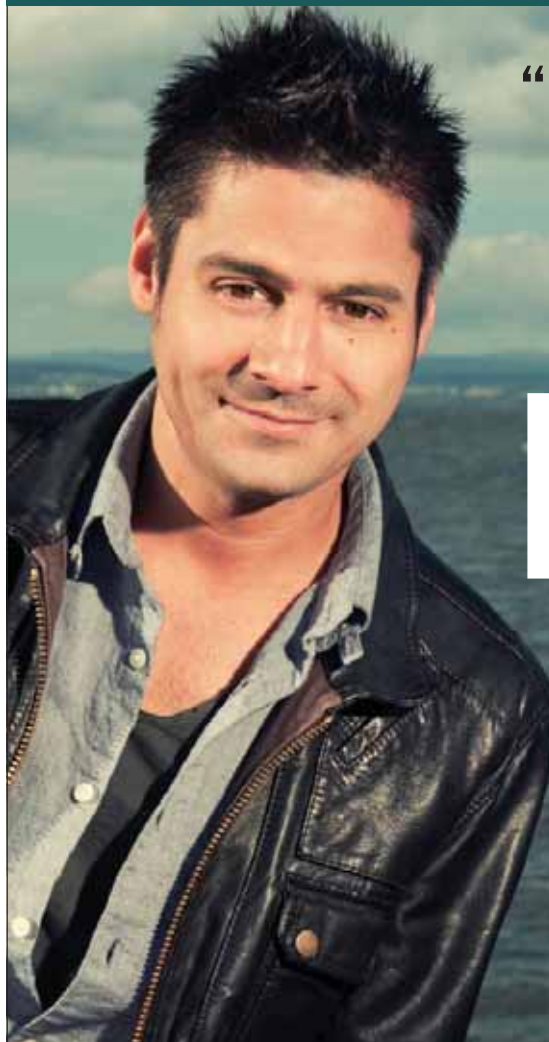
New Year's Eve (PG) No Passes Fri 6:45-9:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:50-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 2:50-6:45-9:30

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:15 No Passes Sat-Thu 2:40-6:50-9:15

The Sitter (14) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Thu 3:10-7:10-9:40

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► Presenters Gerard Butler, left, and Rashida Jones share a laugh before they announced Golden Globe Awards nominations on Thursday.

Golden Globe winners, losers

► With nominations announced Thursday, *The Artist* earned the most at six ► Here's who looks good and who doesn't



NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Mark your calendar

The Golden Globe Awards will be handed out live on Jan. 15 in Los Angeles.

Awards season officially kicks off with the nominations for the 2012 Golden Globes, and as usual the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) didn't disappoint by both focusing the Oscar race and throwing in a few head-scratchers. Here's the breakdown.

BIGGEST WINNERS

Woody Allen should be smiling. Long a favourite of the HFPA, the director's latest film, *Midnight in Paris*, gets an impressive awards-season boost thanks to its four Globe nods, including both screenplay and directing for Allen.

And between his acting in *The Descendants* and directing in *The Ides of March*, George Clooney will have plenty of reasons to show up.

Ryan Gosling is certainly enjoying his nominations in both Best Actor categories.

As far as sheer numbers, silent film *The Artist* — an Oscar front-runner since making a splash at Cannes — had the most nominations at six, but *The Help* and *The Descendants* are close behind at five.

Usual awards heavyweights the Weinstein Company and HBO lead the film and TV packs with 12 and 18 nominations, re-

spectively.

British series *Downton Abbey*, which airs in the U.S. as part of Masterpiece Theater, received the most TV nominations, with four.

BIGGEST SNUBS

The most glaring omission to awards watchers is Stephen Spielberg. Even though his two films, *War Horse* and *The Adventures of Tintin*, are nominated, he was edged out of the directing category.

David Fincher might be feeling overlooked as well, as his *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* only pulled in nominations for Trent Reznor's score and Rooney Mara's performance.

Also, not a single nomination for British spy thriller *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*.

And on the TV side, fans were hoping critical darling *Community* could pick up some Comedy nominations to help its fight against impending cancellation, but the series was completely overlooked.

BIGGEST SURPRISES

Many had believed Disney

would run *The Help* on the Musical or Comedy side for the Globes, giving the popular hit an easier chance at picking up some trophies, but its inclusion in Drama means presumed Oscar front-runners Viola Davis and Meryl Streep (for *The Iron Lady*) are going head-to-head earlier than expected.

In TV, the biggest shock has to be the HFPA's apparent love of Ryan Murphy. While a Best Series — Musical or Comedy nod for *Glee* isn't surprising, the organization apparently flipped for his new less-than-acclaimed horror series, *American Horror Story*, giving it mentions for Best Series, Drama and Best Supporting Actress for Jessica Lange.

BIGGEST REASON TO WATCH

Aside from the showdown between Streep and Davis, the other big reason to watch is to see what Ricky Gervais does to make the HFPA regret inviting him back as host.

The organization is notorious for its love of celebrities, so, not so surprising are nominations for Clooney, Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie — her *In the Land of Blood and Honey* is up for Best Foreign Language Film.

If Johnny Depp shows up to support Best Animated Feature nominee *Rango*, they'll have done their job.

Modern Hanukkah songs



MIKE DOJC
2FORCOUPLES.COM
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

While the songbook for Judaism's festival of lights still lags well behind Christmas, the holiday has been punching above its weight class in recent years. Adam Sandler's Hanukkah song, originally performed on SNL's Weekend Update in 1994, really got the wax spinning on the modern age of Hanukkah tuneage. Get your Hanukkah groove on with one modern track for each night of the celebration.

1. CANDLELIGHT by Maccabeats

This clever parody of Dynamite by Taio Cruz has racked up more than 5.7 million views on YouTube. The Maccabeats, an a cappella group composed of students from New York's Yeshiva University, have performed at Madison Square Garden and The White House.

2. MIRACLE by Matisyahu

The Hasidic reggae star known for his prodigious beat-boxing skills brings us a sweet and spiritual holiday ballad. And in the video, Matisyahu showcases his lighter side by getting hip-checked on a skating rink and having a surreal daydream where he tangles with King Anti-

ochus, some random hockey goons and the Nutcracker.

3. LONELY JEW ON CHRISTMAS by Trey Parker

Kyle Broflovski's tender yet occasionally potty-mouthed tour de force from South Park's famous Mr. Hankey, the Christmas Poo episode from season one. Thanks to Kyle and Mr. Hankey, the denizens of the fictional Colorado town learn that Christmas and Chanukah can coexist.

4. HOW DO YOU SPELL CHANUKKAH? by The LeeVees

The holiday is spelled a few ways, with Hanukkah and Chanukah being the most popular. This is the most memorable track off 2005's Hanukkah Rocks album, a collaboration between Guster's Adam Gardner and The Zambonis' Dave Schneider.

5. FEAST OF LIGHTS by They Might Be Giants

These quirky indie rock darlings known for the catchy geek anthems Birdhouse In Your Soul and Malcolm in the Middle theme song Boss Of Me concoct a downbeat ode to the holiday blahs.

6. MEMORIES OF A WINTER'S NIGHT by David Koz

The lone instrumental Chanukah track on our list comes courtesy of butter-smooth saxophone player Koz, the heir apparent to



► Adam Sandler performing his Hanukkah song, on SNL's Weekend Update in 1994.

Kenny G. The twinkling piano and vibrant sax solos are very seasonal.

7. HANUKKAH BLESSINGS by Barenaked Ladies

One of a trio of Hanukkah tracks on BNL's Barenaked for the Holidays album from 2004. On this earnest medley, Stephen Page

weaves both of Hanukkah's candle-lighting blessings into the song, adding religious heft to the tune.

8. LOVE YOU BETTER by The Maccabees

While these Brighton-based Brit-poppers claim they picked their band

name by randomly skimming the Bible, by adopting the namesake of the heroes of Chanukah, the small yet determined Jewish rebel army who rose up against their Syrian-Greek oppressors, their music is certainly holiday appropriate.



► South Park has their own take on the tunes.

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With a week to go, what do you get the music fan on your list? Here's what I'm hoping to find under

the tree. Not that I'm hinting or anything...

Bob Marley headphones
Everyone from Dr. Dre on down seems to get into the celebrity-endorsed headphone game. The new Positive Vibration

headphones from the House of Marley sound good and are reasonably priced. They also come in a variety of colour schemes including Rasta. (thehouseofmarley.com)

Deluxe edition of The Girl

With the Dragon Tattoo Soundtrack

Yes, there is life beyond Nine Inch Nails. After winning an Oscar for the soundtrack for The Social Network, Trent Reznor and partner Atticus Ross wrote the music for the Hollywood version of Stieg Larsson's best-selling novel. You can spend as little as \$12 for a download or \$300 for this deluxe edition featuring CDs, vinyl and autographs in an ornate box. Yes, I said \$300. (nullco.com/GDT/)

that needs 6D batteries. And it's just \$200. (ihomeaudio.com/iP4ZC)

Ramones Throttleheads

They're just like bobbleheads except cooler. Start with the Ramones and move on to other figures from the golden age of punk. You can't go wrong for \$11 each. (aggronautix.com)

Drummer T-Shirts

If you don't count all those accordion lessons I took as a kid, my instrument is the drums.

A site called Drumbum offers all kinds of gifts for drummers and other musicians. I'm hoping for the More Cowbell T-shirt. And just \$20, too. (store.drumbum.com)

Pod Power

If you're into music, chances are you have all kinds of electronic gear with those this bulky power bricks that are tough to plug into standard power strips. Why did it take so long to invent something as simple and as useful as this? For \$35, I'll take half a dozen. (quirky.com)

ALAN IS THE HOST OF THE RADIO SHOW THE SECRET HISTORY OF ROCK. REACH HIM AT ALAN@ALANCROSS.CA



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Eastwood doing reality TV? Please say it ain't so

Actor's family set to star in show produced by makers of Kardashian series

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONews.ca



The news that Clint Eastwood and his family are making a reality TV show is making me feel all Dirty Harry on the inside.

Yes, TMZ.com is reporting that Eastwood's wife and two daughters are shooting a new reality show that will explore what it's like to be "Hollywood royalty" for the E! Network (editor's note: All reality TV shows are about this. Change it up, people).

Per TMZ, it will focus on the relationship between Clint's wife Dina Eastwood, their daughter Mor-

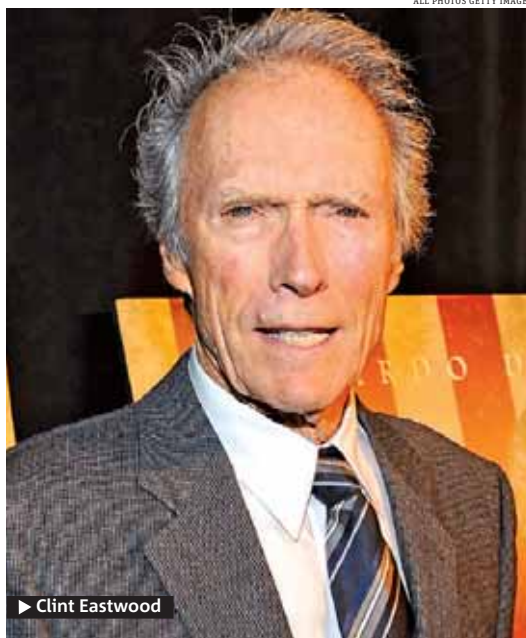
gan and Clint's 18-year-old daughter Francesca. It is being produced by the same company that is also responsible for the Kardashian shows.

Honestly, folks, let's just give up.

Because if Clint, 81, succumbs to the siren call of reality TV, there is no hope for the rest of it.

It's because he and his family are "Hollywood royalty" that they don't have to sink to this, even if the focus is going to be on Francesca, an aspiring actress (second note: If your dad is Clint Eastwood and you need to have a reality TV show to gain traction, you must be a terrible actress).

Come on, Clint. You starred in Gran Torino — please don't go down with-out a fight.



▶ Clint Eastwood

Suri Cruise rakes it in for Christmas



▶ Suri Cruise

Suri Cruise doesn't skimp when it comes to asking for things from Santa.

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' daughter reportedly has a Christmas list of items that total \$130,000, according to In Touch Weekly.

Topping the 5-year-old's list are a pony, diamond earrings and gowns that will make her look "like a

fairy princess," according to the magazine.

And Cruise has reportedly already found a stable in Beverly Hills for the pony.

"Tom and Katie love the holidays and always go overboard," a source says.

"Suri is very mature and knows what she wants."

● METRO

Celebrity tweets



Trivia: In the Jerk, after we sing "Tonight, You Belong to Me," when I stand up you can hear a crack as I step on the ukulele.



@SteveMartinToGo

@BettyBuckley

My absolutely "nothing" day! Ahhhh. But maybe I'll start the Michael Connelly book. I am so excited about all the new movies comin' out!



@pennjillette



I don't ever touch my hair unless I'm going on stage. I don't look in mirrors. This is the way I look. I'll try to remember to smile

@SethMacFarlane



I wonder what President the corporations are gonna buy us next year!

Miley says her twins are real

After turning heads in a low-cut dress at CNN's recent Heroes gala, Miley Cyrus is fighting back against speculation that she's had breast augmentation surgery.

"Thank you for the compliment but these babies are all mine," she posted to Twitter in response to the claims.

"I wish they'd realize you don't have to be fake to be beautiful."

● METRO



Miley Cyrus

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3 life

Sufganiyot tips



- Be patient and give the yeast dough plenty of time to rise, wrapped in plastic in the refrigerator.

- If you want to be really traditional, use extra-virgin olive oil for frying.

- Use a frying thermometer to monitor the oil temperature. Cool oil will give you greasy results.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Scan this code for a Hanukkah recipe for coffee and porter braised brisket.

Put wine love into words



PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

When I was a young wine expert in training, there was no Internet. If you wanted to learn anything about anything, you had to look it up in a book.

Back in the day there wasn't a wine scribe more famous than Hugh Johnson — a gregarious Brit with a casual way of delivery on vino that paved the way for today's first person blogger culture.

Johnson is still writing up a storm with his Pocket Wine Book 2012 (Mitchell Beazley, \$16.99), the undisputed bible for any wine lover on the go. Ever the literary entrepreneur, this year he's created a Wine Journal (Mitchell Beazley, \$17.99) that will allow vinophiles to write their own reviews and keep track of what they're putting in their mouths.

The journal would make a great Christmas gift, especially when paired with a wine worth writing about. France's Père Anselme La Fiole du Pape Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$35.49 - \$39.50) is a non-vintage blend of up to 13 grapes with a rustic, dark fruited personality perfect for holiday drinking. PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



Get sweet on Hanukkah

► Bake up some delicious treats inspired by the upcoming Jewish holiday

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Preparation:

1 In medium bowl, whisk flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside. In small saucepan over medium, heat milk until steaming. Remove pan from heat and add buttermilk. Pour mix into bowl of stand mixer fitted with dough hook. Whisk in yeast and sugar. Let stand 5 mins.

2 Coat large bowl with vegetable oil; set aside.

3 Add flour mix to milk mix and mix on low until dry ingredients are moistened and form ball, about 3 mins. Increase speed to medium and continue mixing 2 mins. Dough will be quite sticky. Transfer dough to prepared bowl, cover with plastic wrap and set aside in a draft-free spot. Let rise until doubled in size, about 1 hour.

4 Fill deep sauté pan with 7.5 cm (3 inches) of oil.

Ingredients:

- 1 l plus 50 ml (4 1/4 cups) bread flour, plus more for dusting work surface
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) baking soda
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) milk



Buttermilk Sufganiyot

► This recipe makes 24 large or 48 small Sufganiyot.

Heat over medium to 190 C (375 F). Line large plate with paper towels.

- 300 ml (1 1/4 cups) buttermilk
- 20 ml (4 tsp) dry active yeast
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) sugar
- Vegetable oil, for frying
- Powdered sugar, for dusting

5 Lightly flour clean work surface. Turn dough out onto surface. Dust top of dough with flour, press to flatten. Fold dough in half and tuck ends under to create a ball. Dust with flour again and use rolling pin to roll dough into roughly a 28-by-43-cm (11-by-17-inch) rectangle about 5 mm (1/4 inch) thick.

Fillings

To fill the Sufganiyot, use either a syringe-like pastry filling tool or slice open one side with a paring knife and use a spoon.

- A few slices of fresh banana and a generous spoonful of hot fudge.
- Ricotta cheese mixed with chopped walnuts, golden raisins and a drizzle of honey.
- Cream cheese topped with some chunky strawberry jam.
- A chocolate-nut spread (such as Nutella), topped with chopped peanuts and marshmallow spread.

6 Using sharp knife, cut dough lengthwise into 4 equal strips, then cut horizontally, at angle, to create 24 or 48 diamond-shaped pieces.

7 Working in batches, carefully drop pieces of dough into hot oil, being careful not to crowd pan. Fry, turning often with slotted spoon, until puffed and golden, 2 mins. Transfer to plate to drain while frying remaining Sufganiyot. Fill or top as desired. Serve warm, dusted with powdered sugar.

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Reimagining chicken pot pie

Take classic dish from dinner table to party platter

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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If you like, these miniature pot pies can be topped with a layer of

puff pastry.

To prepare the tops, thaw a sheet of prepared frozen puff pastry according to package directions. Use a 2.5-cm (1-inch) round cookie cutter to cut circles, then bake them on a baking sheet in a 180 C (350 F) oven for 15 minutes. Set one baked round over each fully baked pot pie.

Preparation:

1 Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Arrange phyllo cups over rimmed baking sheet.

2 In bowl, whisk cream cheese, egg whites, thyme, paprika, salt and pepper. Add peas, carrot and chicken, mixing well. Spoon about 5 ml (1 tsp) of the filling into each cup, then sprinkle with Parmesan. Bake for 15 minutes. Serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 3 pkgs (each pkg contains 15 cups) frozen phyllo cups
- 1 pkg (250 g/8 oz) cream cheese, softened

- 2 egg whites
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dried thyme
- 0.5 ml (1/8 tsp) paprika
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) pepper
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) petite

- peas
- 1 carrot, finely grated
- 500 ml (2 cups) finely chopped cooked chicken
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) grated Parmesan cheese

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4 sports

Quoted



"It's something you look at, you enjoy for the day, and then it's back to the drawing board ... but it's definitely something to be excited about."

MOOSEHEADS GENERAL MANAGER CAM RUSSELL, ON THE HALIFAX MOOSEHEADS BEING 10TH IN THE CANADIAN HOCKEY LEAGUE'S LATEST WEEKLY TOP-10 RANKING. THEY HADN'T CRACKED THE TOP-10 LIST SINCE DEC. 19, 2007.

Titan overpower weary Herd

► With top scorer sidelined again, Moose fall to Titan ► Team has two more games before holiday break



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

A brutal stretch in the QMJHL schedule appeared to take its toll on the Halifax Mooseheads on Thursday night in Bathurst, N.B.

Playing their fifth game in seven days — and without the services of leading scorer Nathan MacKinnon — the Mooseheads fell 3-1 on the road to the Bathurst Titan before a sparse crowd of 867.

The Titan, who lost 4-3 to the Mooseheads on Tuesday in Halifax, had a 40-25 edge in shots and scored in each period. They led all game after Bedford's Adam Stevens broke the ice at 6:32 of the first.

"It was hard finding our legs and playing with the energy we usually play with," said Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme. "It was hard to build momentum. I thought they played better than us. We had some scoring chances, a couple posts, an open net in the third period (that could have) tied it up, but overall, they did a better job than us."

Brad Cuzner had Halifax's only goal at 2:58 of the third to cut Bathurst's lead to 2-1. But New Glasgow's Brent Turnbull, a former ninth-overall draft pick, knocked home an in-

Frk, Ryan named to Team Cherry

Halifax Mooseheads forwards Martin Frk and Andrew Ryan have been selected to play in the CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game.

Although both players have had their seasons shortened due to injuries — Frk with a concussion and Ryan with a broken ankle — both are considered potential selections in the 2012 NHL draft. The annual contest is designed as a showcase for the CHL's top draft-eligible prospects.

Forty players were selected for the game and will face off on Feb. 1 in Kelowna, B.C. Frk and Ryan will suit up for Team Cherry.

● MATTHEW WUEST

surance marker with 3:10 left.

The Mooseheads won't get a reprieve on the weekend. They visit the Moncton Wildcats on Friday and the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles on Sunday before finally getting an



► Mooseheads goalie Zach Fucale, making his 21st straight start on Thursday, stopped 37 shots in a loss to Bathurst.

eight-day break for the holidays.

"This is a tough stretch but we can't be feeling sorry for ourselves," Ducharme said. "We have to take it as a challenge and in Moncton we have a chance to go back at it and

get two points and find a way to do it."

The 16-year-old MacKinnon sat out for the third time in four games after returning to the lineup on Tuesday. The Mooseheads are describing his status as "day-to-day" and aren't

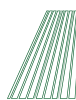
sure if he'll play Friday.

"There's a chance," Mooseheads general manager Cam Russell said. "It's a decision we'll make on (Friday). We'll talk to him and see how he's feeling. He's got to have the right comfort level to play."

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Rainmen give no shelter to Storm

► Halifax wins fourth straight despite slow start ► Third-place club hosts Oshawa Power on Sunday at 2 p.m.



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

After a slow start, the Halifax Rainmen's high-powered offence went to work and lifted them to their fourth straight victory.

The Rainmen, who lead the National Basketball League of Canada in points scored per game, had at least 30 points in each of the final three quarters, including a 39-point third-quarter explosion, to beat the host Summerside Storm 122-107 on Thursday night.

After going down 37-24 early in the second quarter, the Rainmen had a 28-point edge — 98-70 — the rest of the way.

"The game was very difficult from first minute to the last," said Rainmen head coach Josep (Pep) Claros. "I'm very proud of these players because they gave all out. ... It was very difficult



► Halifax Rainmen forward Tyrone Levett goes up for a rebound against the host Summerside Storm's Xavier Hansbro in Thursday night's game on Prince Edward Island.

at some points."

The Rainmen, 7-4, have won seven of their past nine and sit third in the

NBL Canada, two-and-a-half games behind the league-leading London Lightning, 11-3. They host the Oshawa Power on Sun-

day at 2 p.m.

Eight Rainmen hit double digits in points, led by Lawrence Wright's 19 and 17 apiece from Joey Hay-

wood and Tyrone Levett. Halifax's backcourt had a big game, with Taliek Brown putting

up 12 points and 11 assists and Chris Hagan 15 points and seven helpers. Eddie Robinson (12), Justin Johnson (11) and Eric Crookshank (10) rounded out the attack.

Claros didn't spend much time crediting the offence.

"That comes from our defence, because our defence gives us more possessions, and if we have more possessions than anybody, we can score more," Claros said. "But if we don't correct our rebounding, this can affect us ... so we've got to do a better job of that, hopefully Sunday."

The Storm out-rebounded the Rainmen 69-48. Claros said his team dearly missed six-foot-nine centre Abdullahi Kuso, who is expected to miss about a month with a torn tendon in his finger.

Former Rainmen point guard Eric Gilchrese had 18 points for the Storm.

Brown gets NBA shot

Former Halifax Rainmen small forward Marshall Brown is getting a shot at an NBA training camp with the Portland Trail Blazers.

The six-foot-seven, 225-pound forward start-

ed this season in the NBA D-League with the Rio Grande Valley Vipers, averaging 15 points, 5.7 rebounds and 2.3 assists per game in seven outings. Brown was one of Halifax's top players last season, averaging a team-high 34.3 minutes and 12.2 points per game.

● METRO

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Effects of concussion end Pronger's season

The Philadelphia Flyers say captain Chris Pronger will miss the rest of the season with "severe post-concussion syndrome."

The decision comes after the 37-year-old was examined in Pittsburgh by doctors John Maroon and Mickey Collins, who also treated Penguins star Sidney Crosby.

"Chris will continue to

receive treatments and therapy with the hope that he can get better," Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said in a release Thursday.

Pronger has missed the Flyers' last 11 games since coming down with what the team first described as a virus and later changed to post-concussion symptoms.

The bruising defence-man also took a stick in the eye from Toronto's Mikhail Grabovski in late October that resulted in facial trauma and caused him to miss six games.

Pronger, who had knee surgery last month, has one goal and 11 assists in 13 games this season.

The Dryden, Ont., native, who won gold medals

with Canada at the 2002 and 2010 Olympics, signed a seven-year contract with the Flyers in 2009.

Pronger also won the Stanley Cup with the Anaheim Ducks in 2007.

He has 157 goals and 541 assists in 1,167 career regular-season games in 18 seasons with Hartford, St. Louis, Edmonton, Anaheim and Philadelphia.

Pronger joins a long list of NHL players suffering from concussions or concussion-like symptoms this season. Crosby returned to action last month for the first time since early January, but has since suffered a setback and is again out of the Penguins lineup.

Flyers forward and NHL points leader Claude Giroux is also out with a

concussion, as is Ottawa Senators forward Milan Michalek, the league's top goalscorer, and Carolina Hurricanes sniper Jeff Skinner.

Giroux, who has 39 points on the season, took an inadvertent knee to the head from teammate Wayne Simmonds in a game Saturday.

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Howard still seeking a trade

► Magic star unsure what sort of reception he will get from fans at team's first open scrimmage on Saturday

Magic centre Dwight Howard has made it a point to avoid social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook as talk continued to swirl this week about his request to be traded to another team.

But on Saturday, fans will get their first opportunity in person to express how they feel about the all-star's desires when the

team holds an open scrimmage at the Amway Center.

It could be the first awkward reception the fan-favourite Howard has ever received in the year-old arena.

Howard said Thursday that his trade request hasn't been withdrawn, a day after Magic general manager Otis Smith shook off questions about what of-

fers he'd received and said that trade discussions "could go to the end of the season."

The team is off Friday, its first break since training camp opened last week.

"There's no back and forth," Howard said. "It still stands and we know what's going on. I talked to Otis today. What we talked about is gonna stay between me



"I'm gonna do my part on the court. That's the reason I'm here."

DWIGHT HOWARD

and him."

The all-star centre is eligible to opt out of his current contract in July 2012.

Smith has previously given Howard's agent, Dan Fegan, permission to discuss trades with Dallas, New Jersey and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Howard said he doesn't have any expectations about the reception he will

get from Magic fans Saturday.

"I have no idea," he said.

"It's a day for us to get better as a team and that's the only thing I look at. ... I don't think it's gonna be any different. If it is, that's something that we'll have to deal with. But other than that, we're gonna go out there and go hard."

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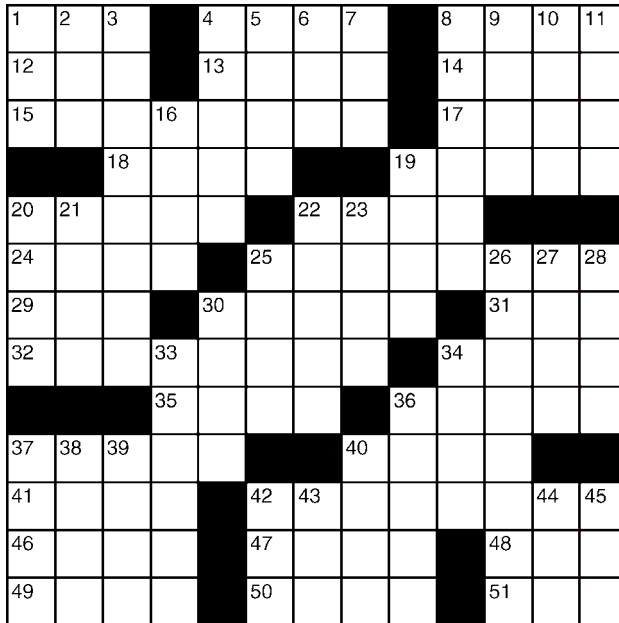
For those without a Metro, the forecast calls for "I dunno" with a slight chance of "huhhh?"



Crossword

Across

1 Humongous
4 Unfriendly
8 Took to the skies
12 Commotion
13 Eye layer
14 Emanation
15 1849 California event
17 Commotion
18 Campus digs
19 Trusty mount
20 "Yippeel!"
22 Create
24 Equal
25 Shirk work
29 Mess up
30 Analogy mark
31 Have debts
32 Paris airport eponym
34 Winter transport
35 Guitars' smaller kin
36 Director Almodóvar
37 Put into words
40 Complaint
41 Stead
42 Source of wealth
46 Teensy bit
47 Vicinity
48 Junior
49 Former European capital
50 Sailing vessel
51 Day divs.
Down
1 Satchel
2 Bachelor's final utterance
3 Cohort of Behar and Hasselbeck
4 Pungent dish in In-



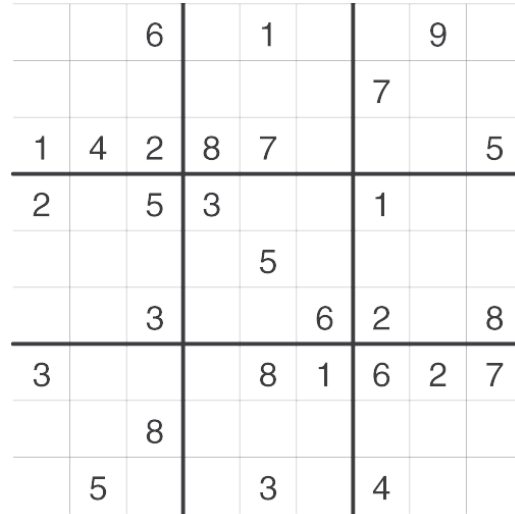
dian cuisine
5 Egg
6 "— Miserables"
7 Doo follower
8 Zip up, maybe
9 Troubadour's instrument
10 Great Lake
11 Actress Sela
16 Entryway
19 Epidermis
20 Newspaper page
21 Present
22 Shopping centers
23 Lotion additive
25 Beauty spot
26 Pepperidge Farms favorites
27 Basin accessory
28 Start over
30 Potential pickle, for short
33 Fall
34 Appear
36 Go by bicycle
37 Thick slice
38 One of The Jackson 5
39 A billion years (Var.)
40 Huffed and puffed
42 Festive

43 Man-mouse link
44 Neither mate
45 Type measures

► Yesterday's answer



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3	2	5	9	6	4	7	8	1
8	1	9	2	7	3	4	6	5
4	7	6	8	5	1	9	2	3
7	9	3	6	1	8	5	4	2
2	8	4	3	9	5	1	7	6
6	5	1	4	2	7	8	3	9
1	6	2	7	8	9	3	5	4
5	4	7	1	3	6	2	9	8
9	3	8	5	4	2	6	1	7

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♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 Someone will come to you for advice today. Make sure he or she knows you can only help so much.

♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 Someone you trust will let you down today but it could turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 A great weight is about to be lifted from your shoulders and once it has, you'll feel lighter than air.

♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug. 23 Career issues and money matters could be a bit tense over the next 24 hours.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24-Sept. 22 All experience is good experience and a bad experience will teach you some important life lessons.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you throw yourself at the first challenge that comes along today, you'll be short of energy for a bigger challenge that is coming up.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You have talent to reach the top, but whether you have motivation will become clear in the next few days.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 The Sun remains in your sign until the 22nd. Between now and then, you must go all out to better yourself in every possible way.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you believe you have been hard done by, suffer in silence, for now.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Loved ones and work colleagues will make demands today. Don't do so much that you exhaust yourself.

♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. Like it or not, today you'll have to deal with someone for whom you have a distaste. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest



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Acadia National Park, Maine – It's green roads ahead and to-do lists behind in the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. And, with best-in-class fuel efficiency, the only thing you'll be stopping for is a breath of fresh air.



1. Removed bush on the left side of image. 2. Removed tunnel behind the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 3. Removed brick from bridge above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 4. Added tree above the bridge. 5. Removed stripe in the road. 6. Added a rock below the bridge. 7. Added an indent to the top of the bridge. 8. Removed a brick in the bridge to the right of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 9. Added grass to the right of the road. 10. Turned on the fog lights on the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox.



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